

Onlooker's Diary

Hayter resigns

WYCOMBE Wanderers F.C.'s longest-serving secretary, Mr. Bill Hayter, will not stand for re-election at the forthcoming annual meeting, in protest at what he feels is the lack of interest being shown by other members of the committee.

It was with much thought that he decided to end his association with the committee after 21 years, 20 of which were spent as general secretary.

But, he told the "Free Press" on Wednesday evening, "there is no pleasure in the club these past years. Meetings are conducted very poorly".

Mr. Hayter complains of little interest among committee men and that attendances at meetings are most unsatisfactory.

"Oh, for a Bob Spratchett or Johnny Timberlake, whom I served under and who insisted that duties were done and that all games were attended by officers and committee men," he said.

Nowadays, though, he says: "It should be the motto for the club's secretary: 'don't do as I do, do as I say'".

He feels that there is "plenty of instructions given for a few to do".

Mr. Hayter also complains that since his resignation was handed in at the committee meeting held last Monday week, he has "just been ignored".

Although he is continuing in his duties right up until the annual general meeting, the date of which is yet to be announced, and is preparing his report and balance-sheet of the club, he will not attend the meeting himself.

The situation has "not made it very pleasant after so many years", he said.

The question now remains: Who will take over the Wanderers' development fund, the introduction of which has undeniably been the lifeline that has kept the Loakes Park club financially solvent in recent years?

"The running of the fund has been a terrific pressure on one and could have been avoided to an extent if more interest had been shown by others."

Of the future, Mr. Hayter admits he will miss meeting many friends throughout the country. But it is for the Wanderers themselves he expresses most concern.

For the first time he openly questions the wisdom of axing Wycombe's reserve team, and reveals that he only agreed to the move because of the club's financial standing.

Now he, like many others, wonders how local talent is to be attracted to the club without the opportunities afforded by a reserve team.

Mr. Hayter resigns at a time when he stands as senior member of the Isthmian League Council, and is a member of the senior selection and referees' committee. His honours include those of vice-president of the Berks and Bucks F.A.; the High Wycombe and District Schools' F.A., and the Referees' Association. He is also a life member and trustee of Wycombe Wanderers.

His personal remedy for Wanderers' recovery is "plenty of work and interest, and the right people in the right jobs".



BILL HAYTER . . .
resigning as Wanderers' secretary

Getting the record straight

SIR, Your headline in Onlooker's Diary last Friday, "Wycombe Puzzle", while no doubt being apt, is I'm afraid, irrelevant. Several years ago the town would have been buzzing with rumours and excitement at what might be the set up at Loakes Park for the coming season.

The Barry Darvill era, I'm afraid, has blighted this enthusiasm. During the past three years, the Wanderers have lost in the region of two thousand once regular supporters, owing to the intrigue which was rife during this period.

Brian Lee is doing his best to recover this once great surge, but if you think that once-regular supporters (and I for one missed less than a dozen home games between 1951 and 1966), are concerned whether 75 per cent of the present playing staff join Darvill and Bates at Chesham, you and the Wanderers committee are in for a shock.

The only followers who may show concern are the ones who would still trudge up to Loakes Park if the Town was represented by eleven apes.

No, I intend to give Brian Lee

all the support he deserves this coming season. But, if any of the present playing staff are in two minds whether to make the short journey to the Meadow, let them make up their minds now.

D. ROWLANDS,
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High Wycombe.

ONLOOKER'S REPLY

Thank you Mr. Rowlands, but I'm afraid that in many ways, it is your own letter that is irrelevant.

It does however offer me a chance to clear up one misunderstanding that would seem to have occurred over last week's story.

I am assured that Paul Bates does not particularly wish to leave Wycombe Wanderers. He has however been told that there will be no place for him in the side next year, and so in effect Paul had no other choice than to look elsewhere. As it happened, Darvill's invitation for him to join Chesham coincided.

As for some of the other points raised by Mr. Rowlands, I can't speak for the Wanderers com-

mittee, who in no way entered into last week's story, but I myself neither mentioned nor contemplated what "once-regular" supporters would feel about any moves among the present playing staff of Wanderers.

My article simply reported the definite possibility that others might decide to join Darvill for the coming season. As reported in Tuesday's Mid-Week Free Press, news has leaked of approaches to some of last year's first team regulars. Whether they will go is not yet either confirmed or disproved.

And it should be remembered that many of last season's reserves in particular, will, like Paul Bates, have no choice but to look elsewhere anyway.

Of the Darvill era, Mr. Rowlands' remarks are fair comment and opinion, and his facts concerning the drop in support undeniable. But, on the other hand, not only was no one trying to deny them anyway but also they were and still are irrelevant to the basic subject of the piece.

Nevertheless, Mr. Rowlands' pledge of support to Brian Lee is to be applauded.